

Farm

Tribune

Farmers question milk quotas

Control crabgrass now

By JOHN BRADSHAW
More lawns are ruined by crabgrass each year than by any other cause. During late July and early August you should be on the lookout for crabgrass plants to show up in your lawn. It takes from the time the lilacs are in bloom in late May and early June until sometime around the first of August for them to grow large enough to be easily recognized.

Many persons call or write around the middle of May to say they already have crabgrass in their lawn. Nothing could be further from the truth. What they really have at that time is quack grass, sometimes called couch grass. It has broad leaves about a quarter of an inch wide with sharp edges. Quack grass is a perennial that spreads by seeds and underground roots.

Crabgrass, on the other hand, is an annual which survives from year to year in the lawn because of its tremendous ability to reseed itself. A single, well developed plant can produce as many as 100,000 seeds in a single season. These can lie dormant in the soil for 50 years and still germinate when brought to light and moisture.

What does a crabgrass plant look like? Its leaves are broader and lighter green in color than most of the desirable lawn grasses, but it's still very difficult to distinguish from other grass until the purple seed heads start to appear around the 1st of August.

Crabgrass likes the hot weather of July and August just about as much as Kentucky bluegrass dislikes it. Just about the time Kentucky bluegrass starts to go dormant in July, crabgrass starts to grow rapidly.

Lawns infested with crabgrass should be mowed at least once, and preferably twice a week, from the 1st of August on to remove the seed heads as they form. It's an excellent plan to gently rake the lawn before mowing it to raise the purple finger-like seed heads so they are removed before the seeds ripen. Be sure to catch the clippings in a grass catcher or bag.

A grass mixture containing a minimum of 40 per cent Merion Kentucky bluegrass is the best mixture to sow if you wish to avoid crabgrass. Merion bluegrass doesn't go dormant in the hot weather of July and August and the crabgrass plants don't get the opportunity needed to take over the lawn.

Crabgrass will not tolerate shade so a thick, dense turf, cut no shorter than one and one-half inches will be a big help in controlling it. Fertilizing a lawn the recommended five times a year is also a big help in preventing the crabgrass plants from getting a hold.

Fortunately, one application of a pre-emergent crabgrass preventive will destroy anywhere from 90 to 100 per cent of the seeds as they germinate. The seed-killing ingredients are highly insoluble and will remain on the surface of the soil for two or more years to continue the job of killing the crabgrass seeds. This is another good reason for not raking the lawn heavily in early spring.

Pre-emergent crabgrass killers need to be applied with care for the active ingredients which provide the controls are very insoluble materials. They're used at a light rate and to get uniform control every single square inch must receive a coating of the material. When it reaches the surface of the soil it becomes fixed to the particles of earth and remains as a very thin but uniform coating.

A. A. Wall, Ag. Rep. for York County, Newmarket

These are days of decision for cream shippers and those who sell milk for cheese, powder or concentrate products. The marketing situation is complex. The decision to be made is whether or not to apply for entry into the fluid Group Pool.

Main points on milk marketing may help. There are two kinds of quotas. One, for cream and industrial shippers, is national and it limits the amount of federal subsidy a producer can receive. The quota setting period was Apr. 1, 1966 to Mar. 31, 1967.

These quotas can't be bought or sold, and new quota is not available to new shippers. Shippers with less than 12,000 lbs. annually, have had their quotas cancelled, and those between 12,000 and 50,000 pounds have to apply now to have their quota continued.

The National Dairy Commission intends to try to increase quotas for those that are now too small, and quota may be given to those who started giving milk in 1967.

Producers who apply and are accepted in the Group 1 Pool, will start with 70 per cent of fluid price for one year, starting Sept. 1. An additional 20 per cent will come into the pool each successive year. This 20 per cent is 20 per cent of the producer's average production for August, 1965, to July, 1966.

A producer will continue to receive federal subsidy on his federal quota, less 125 per cent of the amount taken into the pool.

None of this of course, applies to present fluid shippers who have quotas set by the Marketing Board and which are entirely different from the federal quotas. One important point is, however, that fluid shippers with quota of less than 400 lbs. can apply for an increase. Again, decisions made now can make a lot of difference in the long run. Details on quotas, subsidies, prices and quality, can be discussed at our office in Newmarket.

Potato growers are eligible for a subsidy now, per acre, with a \$400.00 on last year's crop. It's \$25 maximum for each grower. Application forms can be obtained at the Canada Dept. of Agriculture office at Bradford.



Close companions

Thirteen year old Ann Gibson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Gibson of Brougham, continues to add awards and trophies to her already enviable record in jumping competitions. Her champion pony is "Skeeter" and the pair are close companions. —Staff Photo

Crop damage aid refused

Members of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture are not happy with response by Agriculture Minister W. A. Stewart to requests for crop damage assistance.

The requests, carried in a brief early in April, brought refusal by the minister to give grants to farmers who lost their crops in 1966 and 1967.

The brief called for government compensation for crop losses from weather, in crops for which there is not government-sponsored crop insurance.

It said the policy on compensation should be the same as when the government destroys animals to stop the spread of disease. The grain farmer "has no more control over whether it will rain, than

the beef producer has over whether some can of corned beef coming into the country will bring hoof and mouth disease."

Mr. Stewart rejected the Federation's request, but did announce broadening of the number of crops covered, and said his department would consider provisions to insure part of the value of crops.

The meeting passed his resolution that they were "not satisfied with the response of the minister of agriculture to proposals for crop damage assistance."

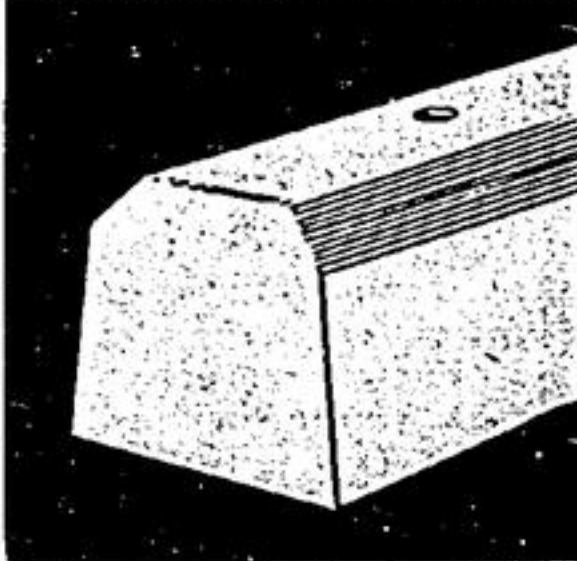
"Farmers who have lost crops on which they could not get insurance ought to get better treatment than this from the society," he said.

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